

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 07859 211736Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 211456Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6118

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 7859

NODIS

FOR INR SAUNDERS

E. O. 11652: XLT

TAGS: US IS EG XF

SUBJ: BRIEFING ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT

REF: STATE 301494

1. AM I RIGHT IN ASSUMING THAT MATERIAL CONTAINED REFTEL ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT IS ALL WE INTEND PASS TO SYRIANS? IN MEETING WITH DEPFONMIN AL-KHANI DEC 21 HE SAID HE HAD SEEN TRANSCRIPT OF BRIEFING I HAD GIVEN KHADDAM DECEMBER 19 BUT ASSUMED IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS YESTERDAY THAT WE WOULD BE PASSING ON BEGIN'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. I REPLIED I DID NOT BELIEVE WE INTENDED TO GET INTO SPECIFICS AT THIS TIME. HE ASKED IF WE HAD GIVEN BEGIN'S PROPOSALS TO THE SOVIETS. I SAID MY UNDERSTANDING, ON THE BASIS OF NEWS REPORTS, WAS THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED VISIT WITH SOVIETS BUT WAS NOT INFORMED RE EXTENT OF DETAIL WE HAD FURNISHED.

2. AP STRINGER LOUIS FARES TOLD POLOFF DECEMBER 21, THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR MET WITH FONMIN KHADDAM EVENING OF DECEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. SOVIET AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY PROMISED KHADDAM TO REQUEST

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COPY OF BEGIN'S PROPOSAL WHICH USG HAD PASSED TO SOVIETS. AMBASSADOR ANTICIPATED REPLY FROM MOSCOW WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS. ACCORDING TO FARES, SYRIANS WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT USG HAD NOT INFORMED THEM DIRECTLY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BEGIN MADE.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MOST EMBARRASSING

TO ME IF SOVIET AMBASSADOR TURNS OVER DETAILS FURNISHED
MOSCOW BY US WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN PREPARED TO FURNISH
DIRECTLY TO SYRIANS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, US, IS, EG, XF, UR, SY, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
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